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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/851,885	05/09/2001	Yasushi Kubota	70904-55845	4328

21874 7590 08/21/2003

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EXAMINER

KOVALICK, VINCENT E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2673

DATE MAILED: 08/21/2003

12

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/851,885

Applicant(s)

KUBOTA ET AL.

Examiner

Vincent E Kovalick

Art Unit

2673

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 May 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-116 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-116 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All   b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This Office Action is in response to Applicant's Patent Application, Serial No. 09/190,966, with a File Date of May 9, 2001.

***Restriction***

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
  - Group I. Claims 1, 87, 91, 94 and 96-97, drawn to image display devices, classified in class 345, subclass 1.1.
  - Group II. Claims 17-20, 23-24 and 73-74, drawn to display control elements, classified in class 345, subclass 3.1
  - Group III. Claims 22, 98-101 and 110-116, drawn to display configurations, classified in class 345, subclass 98.
  - Group IV. Claims 2-16, 21, 25-28, 35-44, 59-66, 75-80, 82-86, 92-93, 95 and 102-103, drawn to display driving control circuitry, classified in class 345, subclass 204.
  - Group V. Claims 29-34, 45-58, 67-72 and 88-90, drawn to display attributes, classified in class 345, subclass 619.
  - Group VI. Claims 103-109, drawn to semiconductor manufacturing, classified in class 438, subclass 400.

3. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because:

Inventions I and II are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because each of the subcombination are related to different aspects of display devices e.g. image display devices versus display control elements. The subcombination has separate utility such as different size or technology displays and generating display control signals.

Inventions I and III are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because each of the subcombination are related to different aspects of display devices e.g. image display devices versus display configurations. The subcombination has separate utility such as different size or technology display systems and specific display configurations

Inventions I and IV are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant

case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because each of the subcombination are related to different aspects of display devices e.g. image display devices versus display driving control circuitry. The subcombination has separate utility such as different size or technology display systems and display control logic structure.

Inventions I and V are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because each of the subcombination are related to different aspects of display devices e.g. image display devices versus display attributes. The subcombination has separate utility such as different size or technology display systems and image display attributes.

Inventions I and VI are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because each of the subcombination are related to different aspects of display devices e.g. image display devices versus display elements manufacturing. The subcombination has separate utility such as different size or technology display systems and the process of making TFT's.

Inventions II and III are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because each of the subcombination are related to different aspects of display devices e.g. display control elements versus display configurations. The subcombination has separate utility such as generating display control signals and making up different display configurations.

Inventions II and IV are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because each of the subcombination are related to different aspects of display devices e.g. display control elements versus display driving control circuitry. The subcombination has separate utility such as generating display control signals and display control logic structure.

Inventions II and V are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because each of the subcombination are related to different aspects of display devices

e.g. display control elements versus display attributes. The subcombination has separate utility such as generating display control signals and generating different image display attributes.

Inventions II and VI are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because each of the subcombination are related to different aspects of display devices e.g. display control elements versus display element manufacturing. The subcombination has separate utility such as generating display control signals and the process of making TFT's.

Inventions III and IV are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because each of the subcombination are related to different aspects of display devices e.g. display configurations versus display driving control circuitry. The subcombination has separate utility such as generating display control signals and display control logic structure.

Inventions III and V are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant

case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because each of the subcombination are related to different aspects of display devices e.g display configurations versus display attributes. The subcombination has separate utility such as generating display control signals and generating different image display attributes.

Inventions III and VI are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because each of the subcombination are related to different aspects of display devices e.g display configurations versus display element manufacturing. The subcombination has separate utility such as generating display control signals and the process of making TFT's.

Inventions IV and V are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because each of the subcombination are related to different aspects of display devices e.g. display driving control circuitry versus display attributes. The subcombination has separate utility such as generating display control logic structure and generating different image display attributes.



Inventions IV and VI are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because each of the subcombination are related to different aspects of display devices e.g. display driving control circuitry versus display elements manufacturing. The subcombination has separate utility such as generating display control logic structure and the process of making TFT's.

Inventions V and VI are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because each of the subcombination are related to different aspects of display devices e.g. display attributes versus display elements manufacturing. The subcombination has separate utility such as generating various display attributes and the process of making TFT's.

4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

5. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the searches required for any one of Groups I-VI are not required for any other of Groups I-VI, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

6. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

*Election of Species*

7. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Fig. 1	constitutes	Species 1	Fig. 29b	constitutes	Species 13
Fig. 2	constitutes	Species 2	Fig. 32	constitutes	Species 14
Fig. 3	constitutes	Species 3	Fig. 33	constitutes	Species 15
Fig. 4	constitutes	Species 4	Fig. 34	constitutes	Species 16
Fig. 5	constitutes	Species 5	Fig. 35	constitutes	Species 17
Fig. 6	constitutes	Species 6	Fig. 36	constitutes	Species 18
Fig. 7	constitutes	Species 7	Fig. 37	constitutes	Species 19
Fig. 26	constitutes	Species 8	Fig. 38	constitutes	Species 20
Fig. 27	constitutes	Species 9	Fig. 39	constitutes	Species 21
Fig. 28a	constitutes	Species 10	Fig. 40	constitutes	Species 22
Fig. 28b	constitutes	Species 11	Fig. 141	constitutes	Species 23
Fig. 29a	constitutes	Species 12			

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, no generic claim.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

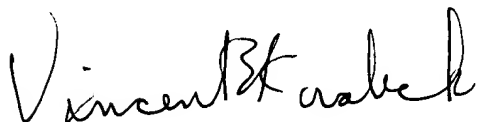
Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

***Responses***


8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vincent E Kovalick whose telephone number is 703 306-3020. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30- 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala can be reached on 703 305-4938. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 872-9314 for regular communications and 703 872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 306-0377.



Vincent E. Kovalick  
August 19, 2003



BIPIN SHALWALA  
SUPERVISOR, PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600